

ONE PLANET





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INSPIRATIONAL TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY FROM AROUND THE WORLD

MELBOURNE | OAKLAND | LONDON



FOREWORD

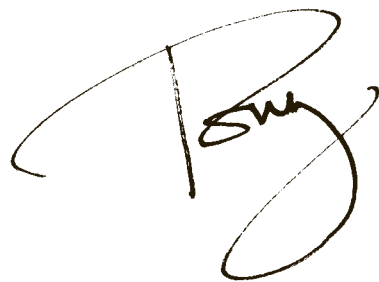
It's now 40 years since the very first Lonely Planet guidebook appeared on the shelves and, soon after, hit the road in the hands of the very first Lonely Planet travellers.

In the eventful years since the publication of *Across Asia on the Cheap* a great deal has happened in the world of travel. Peoples' horizons have got far wider and destinations that 40 years ago seemed wildly exotic have become mundanely everyday. The numbers of visitors to many destinations have increased equally dramatically, places which once enjoyed a mere trickle of intrepid travellers now welcome them by the jumbo jet load.

For Lonely Planet the changes have been equally amazing. From that first book, which really was put together on a kitchen table, we've progressed to becoming a company with offices around the world, hundreds of staff and sales of millions of books every year. But through all the ups and downs one thing has stayed constant for travellers everywhere, for Lonely Planet and for me: travel remains one of the world's most important activities.

Life on our planet today seems to involve a constant cycle of conflicts, misunderstandings and heart-breaks but travel is an equally constant reminder that we live in a wonderful world and it's a world we all share. Travel is hugely significant for the economies of many nations, it's a source of great enjoyment and interest for enormous numbers of travellers, but even more important it's the most positive way for people to meet people, to realise that we all share the same hopes and aspirations and to prove that we can work for a better world.

Despite many ups and downs, and despite the innumerable wandering roads Lonely Planet has led me down over those years, travel is still, for me, an all-consuming passion. Put a ticket in my hand and point me towards the departure gate and I'm always ready to go. The images in this book are a clear reminder of just why that passion has never died, why my world never seems to get any smaller and why, happily, my addiction is likely to remain an incurable one.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Wheeler', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Tony Wheeler – Lonely Planet co-founder

previous page Detail of the traditional costume worn by the people of Ojibwa Nation, photographed in Saskatchewan's Wanuskewin Heritage Park, western Canada.

photographer Jeff Greenberg

number 1

left The brilliantly coloured necklaces of a Samburu warrior, in Kenya. The semi-nomadic Samburu are part of the same group of tribes as the better-known Masai, with whom they share a language.

photographer Douglas Steakley

number 2



INTRODUCTION

One Planet is a celebration of life, of curiosity and the experience of travel.

The underlying theme uniting the photographs in this book is connection, travel's most rewarding and profound gift, encouraging appreciation of the similarities we share in a world of different cultures, experiences, circumstances and environments.

Chosen from the stunning and inspirational collection of images held in the Lonely Planet Images library, the photographs in this book were selected not only for their beauty and photographic excellence, but also for their sense of capturing a moment in time, a moment that is shared – or at least understood – across the globe.

The photographs capture the essence of *being there*, in that moment. They depict universal expressions of the human spirit shared in very different contexts. Their immediacy is inclusive; their energy, edge and sense of fun invite the viewer into the picture to participate in the shared experiences, emotions and rituals that connect us all as humans.

Lonely Planet's photographers are passionate travellers, artists whose workplace is the road. Their observations reveal the universality of life, sharing the similarities and celebrating the differences. The connection between photographer and subject is often compelling, hinting at the different journeys that resulted in the capturing of that particular moment in time on film.

One Planet pays tribute to the cultural, creative and geographical diversity of the world we inhabit. In particular, the photographs highlight our astonishing human diversity, the divergence and synchronicity that continue to captivate and reward us as humans and travellers. It also celebrates the majesty of the animal kingdom, and the sheer beauty and awesome diversity of our natural world. *One Planet* presents a truly global view that celebrates the many pieces of the puzzle that make up a picture of our surprising world.

In choosing the juxtaposition of images, we have mainly used gut instinct as our guide. The result is that some images make obvious companions – perhaps because they show the same activity happening in totally different parts of the world, such as kids knocking about a football (image numbers 133 and 134) or people rushing for shelter from a torrential downpour (119 and 120). Other comparisons share no connection at all in terms of content, but visually they fit together perfectly. With this artistic licence, then, we have allowed an orang-utan in a rehabilitation centre to sit opposite a Chilean steel mill worker (147 and 148), and we have juxtaposed a bungee jumper flying through air with an ice-cutter negotiating a

path through the black waters (194 and 195). It is my hope that you, the reader, will see the connections in the pairings we have made, but that you will look with your own eyes, mind and heart to make your own interpretation – in the words of Henry Thoreau, ‘the question is not what you look at, but what you see.’

Humanity in all its beauty, strength, weakness, shyness, exhibitionism and spirit is represented here, in the eyes, smiles, hands, gestures, clothing, personalities and situations momentarily captured by the photographers. The two boys who introduce the selection (4 and 5) display a shared curiosity, though one is openly inquisitive while the other is far more reserved. A timid Chinese girl is torn between hiding and smiling for the camera in image 83, while the Nepalese girl opposite her obliges without shyness.

The theme of synchronicity is witnessed in images 10 and 11, where teenagers in Trakai, Lithuania, leap with excitement into Lake Galve for a cooling midday swim, while in Queensland, Australia, two young brothers in arms delight in the refreshing waters of the Pacific Ocean. In images 140 and 141, we can see that other young children share the same instinctive impulses, despite one group being in the USA and the other in India.

Notions of friendship are explored in image 43, where we see three young Buddhist monks enjoy some quiet time walking together, one travelling behind the other, heading in the same direction. Companionship and a certain intimacy are revealed by cultural pursuits. In image 38, an Indian barber serves a customer, while thousands of miles away in Ethiopia, Africa, a man striking an almost identical pose applies tribal markings to his companion’s face in image 37.

The various physical landscapes we inhabit provide the backdrop to many of the images, and are also individually celebrated as fine examples of nature’s drama and beauty. The seemingly endless blue hills of Kathmandu, Nepal, in image 21, the silky-textured dunes of the Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado, USA, in image 56, and Chile’s stunning Andean peaks in image 151 provide eternal inspiration for the traveller. The patterns and colours of Maine’s autumnal leaves contrast with the regimented yet striking lines of a British city’s rooftops in images 196 and 197.

Cultural and religious celebrations and festivals enjoyed across the world reveal a shared reverence for tradition, that all-important link with the past that maintains connections with our national and family

heritage. The trappings of these traditions are resolutely maintained, in the masks and make-up of the celebrants in images 15 and 16.

One Planet also celebrates our shared sense of fun: a film set in Chennai, India (26); very different audiences in Italy and India (61 and 62); the age-old desire to play peek-a-boo that's common to places as far flung as Nepal and Peru (92 and 93). Board games are enjoyed in Hungary and China (123 and 124), the outrageous hairdos of punks (102) will never go out of fashion, and Sydney's annual Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras will always attract its fair share of extroverts (7).

The juxtaposition of images in *One Planet* is quirky, thought-provoking and compelling. Similar and opposing themes and images are combined, contrasted and compared, while colours, shapes and patterns prove irresistible partners. And of course there's the all-important element of surprise and sheer exhilaration at what has been captured by the photographer. A passing moment immortalised on film, such as the American boy leaping excitedly into the air in front of a graffiti-strewn wall (116) or the Nepalese monks viewed as if in multiple dimensions through a doorway (178).

In the spirit of Lonely Planet's ethos of getting out there and *just going*, we hope you find these images and words truly inspirational. At Lonely Planet, we are passionate about travel. Through exposure to other cultures, people and places, we can gain an appreciation of the world that exists outside our own window – an appreciation that can stretch over many thousands of miles.

In *One Planet*, the photographers have captured their own small moments that help to construct the bigger picture, where the similarities between us overwhelm our differences. Yet it is only by gaining a true appreciation of both that we can obtain the wisdom and the compassion we need to help shape the future of our One Planet.

Above all, the photographs in this book carry one simple message – 'see it for yourself'. It was through this spirit of adventure and action, through independence and self-determination, that Lonely Planet was born. We hope that the images in this book will inspire you to create your own adventure.

Roz Hopkins



An inquisitive monk at Drepung Monastery, Tibet. Drepung was once the world's largest monastery, and for a time it was the home of the Dalai Lamas. Today, around 600 monks remain in residence.

photographer Richard l'Anson

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